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FBI-INTTELLIGENCE:450

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WASHINGTON (AP) - THE GOVERNMENT ON WEDNESDAY DISCLOSED ITS GUIDELINES ON FBI FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES; AND A LEADING CRITIC OF GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE SAID THEY MAKE CLEAR THAT THE FBI DOES "A LOT FOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS."

THE 19-PAGE EDITED DOCUMENT WAS RELEASED UNDER A FREEOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST BY MORTON HALPERIN, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES IN WASHINGTON.

THE GUIDELINES WERE CENSORED TO ELIMINATE WHAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SAID WAS INFORMATION THAT COULD DAMAGE THE GOVERNMENT'S INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING SYSTEM.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN HARMON, IN A LETTER TO HALPERIN, SAID: "WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE FBI'S FOREIGN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATIONS NOT BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY DISCLOSURES THAT REVEAL OR TEND TO REVEAL INFORMATION ABOUT METHODS OF INVESTIGATION OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR USE."

HARMON SAID THE INFORMATION: "IF ACQUIRED BY SOPHISTICATED FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, WOULD PERMIT THEM TO ADJUST THEIR CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY TO REDUCE THEIR VULNERABILITY TO DETECTION."

HALPERIN SAID HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER HE WOULD FILE A COURT APPEAL TO TRY TO OBTAIN THE CENSORED INFORMATION.

HE SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW THAT HE FELT THE MOST REVEALING ASPECT OF THE GUIDELINES WAS ITS INDICATION THAT THE FBI EXCHANGES A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

HE SAID THE GUIDELINES STATE, FOR EXAMPLE: "FBI HEADQUARTERS SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF ANY REQUEST BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT, INTELLIGENCE OR SECURITY AGENCY OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT FOR INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE IN A FOREIGN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE MATTER INVOLVING A UNITED STATES CITIZEN."

THE GUIDELINES WERE ADOPTED IN MAY 1976 UNDER FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD LEVI.

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST IS NOT RELATED TO A PENDING COURT CASE INVOLVING HALPERIN, WHO WAS PLACED UNDER ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE WHEN HE WORKED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

COINCIDENTALLY, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILED A LEGAL BRIEF IN THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ON TUESDAY REAFFIRMING ITS POSITION THAT FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON AND HIS CHIEF AIDES SHOULD BE IMMUNE FROM LAWSUITS FOR ORDERING WIRETAPS AGAINST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REPORTERS IN THE EARLY 1970s.

ON AUG. 7, 1977, A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE RULED THAT NIXON, HIS CHIEF OF STAFF H.R. Haldeman, AND FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN W. MITCHELL MUST PAY NOMINAL DAMAGES OF ONE DOLLAR FOR AUTHORIZING A WIRETAP ON HALPERIN'S HOME TELEPHONE; A TAP THAT LASTED MORE THAN A YEAR.

HALPERIN IS APPEALING THE RULING FOR FURTHER DAMAGES; AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS APPEALING ON GROUNDS THAT FEDERAL OFFICIALS SHOULD BE IMMUNE FROM SUCH SUITS.

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